

I am deeply concerned that the FCC would weaken state telephone privacy laws with its own, less effective federal mandate regulating telemarketing calls. I must admit that I was skeptical that the Indiana law that went into effect at the beginning of 2002 would have much of an impact on the number of calls that our household would receive. To my pleasant surprise, we have received a minimal number of those calls this year. The most annoying calls we get now are wrong numbers and they are far less so than telemarketing. There is no longer a reflex of annoyance or trepidation when I hear the telephone ring. For those charities and businesses who say that this is an infringement on their right to free speech, I say they have plenty of remaining tools at their disposal to make their pitches. If the FCC is really concerned about free speech, it should reconsider the loosening of broadcast ownership rules, which has made radio listening pretty homogenous across the country in the past decade. But that's another issue.